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(54) Title: **USE OF PLEITROPHIN FOR PREVENTING AND TREATING PANCREATIC DISEASES AND/OR OBESITY  
AND/OR METABOLIC SYNDROME**

(57) Abstract: The present invention discloses the protein pleitrophin secreted by the developing pancreas, and polynucleotides, which identify and encode this protein. The invention also relates to the use of these sequences in the diagnosis, study, prevention, and treatment of pancreatic diseases (e.g. diabetes), obesity, and/or metabolic syndrome.

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